



Arizona Department of Transportation

Public Transportation Division

MEMORANDUM

To: MPO and COG Directors

Date: 26 June 2007

From: Jim Dickey, Director, PTD

Subject: State Public Transportation Update

Happy Independence Day!!!! It's been a busy Spring and early Summer for ADOT's Public Transportation Division...here is an update on events, issues, and some futurism.

Transit Capital 10-year Program of Projects: ADOT-PTD staff is working on a 10-year capital planning project that will chart a course of action for us to take to better determine capital allocations in the 5310, 5311, 5316 and 5317 programs. This integrated approach may provide us with a road map--no--I mean a bus-route as to the ebb and flow of capital needs. Rolling stock is the most simple, but we want to look more closely at facilities and other major capital investments as programs mature over a period of time. (Contact Mark Hoffman @ 602 712 7454). And this all plays into.....

FTA Section 5309 Discretionary State-wide capital request: Some of you may have recently received e-mail from me about ADOT preparing its first 5309 request for discretionary funding. Knowing that rural and small urban areas have funding needs that may be different from the large urban areas, ADOT will submit the discretionary request beginning next January. Small MPOs, Tribes, and COGs, including the 5311 program recipients, can benefit from this process. And the result could be significant:

- More funding could be available in FTA funds for operations instead of capital
- Leverages capital requests over a longer period to stabilize capital funding needs in the small urban 5307 and the rural 5310 and 5311 programs, and may allow for more wise use of the 5316 and 5317 funds
- Assists in startup programs where capital needs exceed the ability to supply in some years.

As a result, we will begin to work with many of you to understand your needs, while we predict others, and begin to develop a strategy for our first and future requests. A

little bit of money goes a long way in these instances! (Contact Jim Dickey @ 602 712 8137)

Rail Tid-bits: Many of you are probably aware that we have substantially finished our State RR Inventory and Assessment. We will brief the Director's office and the ADOT Board soon, and then be prepared to release the report.

- ADOT is partnering with MAG on its Commuter Rail Strategic Plan, which will have completed its first round of stakeholder meetings this Friday.
- ADOT is completed with Phase I of its High Speed Rail Update, and beginning Phase 2 soon. The report may be released sometime this fall.

(Contact Scott Friedson @ 602 712 6095 or Jim Dickey @ 602 712 8137)

AzTA 2nd Annual Rail Conference: Put on your calendar now the 9/28 date for AzTA's 2nd annual Rail Conference, to be held at the Tempe Mission Palms. This conference will feature experts in design, construction, startup and operations of rail programs from California, Washington, and other states where programs are in place or being constructed. Pretty good stuff! (Contact Jim Dickey @ 602 712 8137)

Governor's Executive Order "Expanding Arizona's Transportation Options": I expect to submit the Response to the Executive Order soon. Thanks to all of you who provided timely information to that effort. When I know the release date, you'll be some of the first to know, too! (Contact Matt Carpenter @ 602 712 7790 or Jim Dickey @ 602 712 8137)

5316/17 Administrative Guidelines: I've asked Gregg Kiely to commit to writing the administrative guidelines (our version of rules and regs) for these two programs now that we've been through the application process so that we can add them to the FTA State Management Plan, and to close the loop with you on how money will be drawn for those programs and how we will account/report those programs. We've tried to keep it simple, but not unlike the nearly 2 year effort to make our first grant request and distribution, some things are that simple. We'll post those on our webpage as soon as available and let you know. (Contact Gregg Kiely @ 602 712 6736)

Call for 5304 Planning Projects: With an emphasis on a three year horizon, Matt Carpenter will soon ask those of you who are eligible for the FTA 5304 planning funds to recommend projects for consideration. We will marry this with our state level planning needs, and put together a long term plan to obligate and fund planning projects for feasibility/implementation plans, participation in other planning activities related to TPD, and other misc. needs. Be thinking about those communities that might be eligible for planning support. By the way, funds are scarce; unfortunately, we still need to find funding partners to make these things happen! (Contact Matt Carpenter @ 602 712 6790)

AzRides: The next meeting of the AzRides Executive Council will be on July 18 here at ADOT. ADOT has much progress to report, and we want to shape the next year's activities as part of the growth of this program. Since the 5310, 5316 and 5317 programs are somewhat intertwined with AzRides and the concept of coordination, we'll try to refine in combination these programs to reflect that relationship, and how we can take advantage of other Federal funding streams. (Contact Steve Rost @ 602 712 8018 or Gregg Kiely @ 602 712 6736)

COG Plan Updates: The coordination planning that we just finished already needs some updates. Expect to hear from Gregg Kiely and Steve Rost soon about:

- Updates need to be done because of new programs and projects identified in the 5310, 5316 and 5117 applications;
- How to go about making their changes (what sections, kind of wording, etc.) and then returning them to ADOT so we can post on the website.
- And that though our consulting contract with RAE Consultants is technically over, Rick Evans will remain available to the COGs as advisory to this update process as needed.

(Contact Steve Rost @ 602 712 8018 or Gregg Kiely @ 602 712 6736)

Transit related legislation: This legislative session produced four issues of significance for transit:

- Clarification of use of the HOV lanes for buses. It now codifies what has been the standard practice;
- Re-identification of 2002 session law that allocated \$650,000 for RR ROW purchase to be used for RR planning purposes;
- Creation of a sub-account in the State Infrastructure Bank program under the HELP provision to loan money for TRANSIT capital projects in communities under 50,000 population and Tribes;
- Reversion (by a lack of action on behalf of the Legislature) to the \$31M threshold for LTAF II distributions beginning with the FY08.

Next year will see some additional transit related recommendations...we welcome your input to that process. (Contact Jim Dickey @ 602 712 8137)

LTAF II: Speaking of which, we expect LTAFII distributions this year to be in the \$6M range (as compared to \$18M last year at this time). Expect to see the application information in front of you as soon as we get the funding confirmation and distribution breakdowns...I'm betting first of August. By the way, this marks the 10th year of distributions (really the 9th, as one year there were no dollars distributed) so expect to see a decade report on LTAF II, a history as such, of this program. It should be available sometime in September. (Contact Mark Hoffman @ 602 712 7454 or Matt Carpenter @ 602 712 6790)

Implementation Plan--Stopping on state highways. The plan has taken much longer to develop than I had once envisioned, but you should see final plan documentation sometime this summer. Issues concerning ADA application, roadway speeds, sight distances, and several other concerns have slowed down this process. The outcome is not as open of an interpretation as I had hoped, but it is a step in the right direction. The plan has to be approved internally at ADOT. (Contact Jim Dickey @ 602 712 8137)

5310 Program Update: Application deadlines have come and gone for the Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities program for the upcoming grant cycle. Gregg Kiely is now finishing recommendations in concert with many of you (including doing some adjusting to take into account the 5316 and 5317 awards) in order to make application with FTA. Stay tuned for updates from Gregg as the process is completed. In the meantime, regular vans are now being delivered, and we expect deliveries to begin of cut-aways and some lift equipped vans later this summer. (Contact Loretta Crimi @ 602 712 7106 or Gregg Kiely @ 602 712 6736)

5311 Program Update: Similar to the 5310 program, Sam Chavez has completed the application and interview process and is now making application with FTA for the Rural Transportation program, and its companion RTAP program. Modest growth in this program has occurred, and there are some interesting new ideas emerging in program administration. (Contact Ann Cochran @ 602 712 7463 or Sam Chavez @ 602 712 7465)

Training Update: Dan Harrigan has an entire lineup of training activities already in process for this summer and fall. Here is a sampling of what you might be involved in, or training that you can encourage others to participate in. In some cases, specific dates and locations are yet to be determined. (Contact Dan Harrigan @ 602 712 8232)

- Defensive Driving Instructor:
 - July 9, 10, 11 (Flagstaff)
 - August 8, 9, 10 (Phx)
 - December 17, 18, 18 (Tucson)
- CPR/AED Instructor:
 - July 25, 26 (Phx)
 - August 27, 28 (Flagstaff)
 - October 18, 19 (Tucson)
- Rural Transit Admin. Conference:
 - August 22, 23 (Phx)
- 5310 Workshops Statewide:
 - October 2007 (Phx, Flag, Tuc)
- National Transit Institute:
 - November 2007 Coordination / Dispatching Workshops

State Rural Transit Needs Study: The study is at 95% completion, and we hope to provide a Director's office Briefing and Board Briefing in the next months before release of the report. Cambridge Systematics in concert with TranSystems has done an excellent job in identifying and quantifying transit need in Arizona. A key piece of information from the report is that of estimated rural transit need in Arizona, we currently provide only about 18%. We're looking at providing some specific strategies to address needs that will be part of the report conclusions. Thanks to AzTA for providing the local match to make this study happen. (Contact Matt Carpenter @ 602 712 6790)

Light Rail Safety Oversight: ADOT-PTD is charged with developing the framework for Safety Oversight for the METRO program. Scott has been working closely with Larry Engleman and others at METRO to help ensure that METRO's program meets and exceeds all expectations for Safety. METRO has several operational light rail cars, more than 12 are in some stage of assembly (right here in Phoenix), and yard and in-street testing is already underway. Scott is also working with MVD to identify driver education programs and involved in a host of other programs with peers across the country. December 2008 is just around the corner! (Contact Scott Friedson @ 602 712 6095)

Other planning efforts upcoming or underway: PTD is working on several other planning projects other than those highlighted above. Here's a short list:

- Participation in SATS in
 - Florence/Coolidge
 - Gila County
 - Queen Creek
 - Page
 - Benson

(Contact Matt Carpenter at 602 712 6790)

Conferences/Meeting Update:

*Arizona Rides Executive Council (Phoenix) 7/18

*Arizona League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference (Scottsdale) 8/28-31

As you know, the ADOT PTD mission is to identify public transportation needs, and administer programs and resources to provide safe and reliable options for Arizona's communities. I want to thank all of you for your participation in the wide variety of evaluation panels, councils, and/or reviews that ADOT-PTD hosts to administer the FTA program. We try to make it worth your while, not only in administrative funding support, but in return on your investment to your geographic area or members. The \$15M dollars (not including LTAF II) that we parcel out so carefully provides services and meets needs for many who otherwise would have no transit options, so even if your work goes unrecognized by the many, recognize that us few at ADOT do appreciate it.

Check out our website at www.azdot.gov/PTD

Thanks.....Jim Dickey

